



The Thoreau Society Bulletin

ISSN 0040-6406

Number 238

Winter 2002

Me and Mister Thoreau

Bob Blaisdell

[Editor's Note: Mr. Blaisdell teaches in the Community College system in Brooklyn, New York. His recently renewed interest in Thoreau has inspired journal writing for his own students.]

This is how my relationship with Thoreau started. I read *Walden* and I don't know which few of his famous essays sometime in high school. I don't remember if I had to write about *Walden* or the essays, but I'm sure I must have. We also read B. F. Skinner's *Walden Two*, so maybe we compared the books. Over the next twenty-four years, the faint impression I retained of Thoreau never made me want to pick him up again: he was preachy and cranky, and he liked the woods. When I taught a course ten years ago called "Studies in Classic American Literature," inspired by D. H. Lawrence's very fun book of that title, Thoreau didn't make it into my class because Lawrence didn't include him. I have no idea why Lawrence didn't include him, but such an exclusion was a good enough reason for me to continue ignoring Thoreau. Ignorance is bliss, and I didn't know what I was missing.

Since 1993, when my wife and I arrived in New York, besides teaching English in community colleges I have freelanced as a

proofreader, adapter of children's books, and editor for Dover Publications' Thrift Edition of the Classics. A few times a year I call an editor at Dover Publications or he calls me, and I ask about the ideas for Thrift Editions I've suggested, or he asks if I'm interested in a project they have in mind. In response to my suggestions, I've been allowed to do selections of poems by Thomas Hardy and D. H. Lawrence, stories by Hardy, and speeches by Native Americans. I've been offered the chance to do ten others, and I've always said yes.

Quote books are popular, and I like them myself. So when I was offered two years ago the editorship of a book of quotes by Thoreau, I winced at my memory of the man's works but, as always, agreed. I received the four volumes of Thoreau that Dover had in print, and I started reading *Walden* again. I was not immediately taken with it, but I began to figure out that there were great, weird parts in it that I couldn't have had much sympathy with as a sixteen-year-old. As a teenager I didn't like "weird" people who didn't mind that they were weird. If Thoreau was weird, he should have tried to become normal, not weirder! Now, those "weird" parts that I was really enjoying usually had nothing to do with his pithy quotation-worthy statements. I liked

reading about him taking his time to do something—measuring heights and depths, watching animals. I found unappealing his preachy pronouncements—and yet out came my pencil to mark the margin every time he made one: they are very quotable. The old crank I remembered half-pleased me whenever I had found another quote for my book. And, meanwhile, I was having such a good time reading the long descriptions. After *Walden* came the famous essays, and I even liked them and preferred them to *Walden*, though some of them are sermons from beginning to end. Dover has two books that present extracts from his journals, but by the time I had finished *Walden* and the essays, I had started Thoreau's first, "weirdest," and for me, best book, *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*—and I was hooked. I described it to friends, most of whom had had less immersion in Thoreau than I and certainly less intense relationships with him than I already had: I told them *A Week* is a journal, a memory book, a hodgepodge of literary criticism and poetry—and fat. (But now I liked fat—at least in Thoreau.) Where *Walden* is a distillation, I told them, *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* is a bag into which he shoved any- and everything.

In This Issue

3 Society Eyes Acquisition of Thoreau Birthplace
Greg Turner

4 Book Review
Randall Conrad

President's Column
Ronald A. Bosco

6 Thoreau Fellowships Available
Notes & Queries

7 Additions to the Thoreau Bibliography

8 Calendar

And then I knew I couldn't just use the 300 pages of selected journal entries.

I live near Columbia University (my wife is a geologist there), and I use the books in their dusty, low-ceilinged Butler Library for almost all my literary research. Survivors of the nineteenth century that I have had to wear plastic gloves to look at in dust-proof Special Collections rooms are sometimes immediately in front of me, on the Butler shelves, dusty but, upon opening, creaky and bright. Anyway, unlike in many libraries, you have the awesome privilege of browsing books without having to request them. That said, two of the most dismaying moments of my editorial life in the last couple of years have been discovering on the tenth floor the shelves containing the collected works of Thoreau and the twice as many shelves containing another great but much "weirder" (and often insufferable) writer, John Ruskin. In Spanish, a bookworm is *un raton de biblioteca*, a library mouse. I was determined to gnaw my way through all of Thoreau. But most of Thoreau, I realized looking at the shelves, is journals—fourteen of his twenty volumes in the 1906 edition I would be using for Dover's setting copy. I could not possibly read all of Thoreau's journals, I told my wife. I simply couldn't spare the time—neither from my teaching nor other editorial or writing commitments. She probably knew before I did that I was indeed going to read all of Thoreau's journals.

I wouldn't have done it—I wouldn't have—had they not been the most compelling journals I've ever read. Where I come from, to say they're superior to Boswell's is blasphemous, so I won't say that, but I might think it. Side by side with those thoroughly Thoreauvian pronouncements on friendship and money and writing were those descriptions: animal, vegetable, mineral—all of them taken and recorded with affection if not love. He believed (he told his journal) that "My journal should be

the record of my love. I would write in it only of the things I love, my affection for any aspects of the world, what I love to think of." And his journal is, and he did. He also said, "All that a man has to say or do that can possibly concern mankind, is in some shape or other to tell the story of his love,—to sing; and, if he is fortunate and keeps alive, he will be forever in love." This seemingly unfriendly man, unbound, it would appear, by any romantic attachment, was in love his whole life, but not with any particular people, and his journal does indeed sing of his love.

"A man's interest in a single bluebird," he wrote in a letter, "is worth more than a complete but dry list of the fauna and flora of a town." His journal: "A history of animated nature must itself be animated."

I am a city-boy and lack the nature-appreciation gene, but I could read Thoreau's loving accounts of "animate nature" all day and night, and I did, many a day and night. He was devoted to his journal—preferred it to his friends, he realized—and seems to have believed it would be his real contribution to literature. I heartily agree with him.

Because of Thoreau, my interest has revived in using journals with students: "Thoughts accidentally thrown together become a frame in which more may be developed and exhibited. Perhaps this is the main value of a habit of writing, of keeping a journal,—that so we remember our best hours and stimulate ourselves.... Having by chance recorded a few disconnected thoughts and then brought them into juxtaposition, they suggest a whole new field in which it was possible to labor and to think. Thought begat thought." I have not, though, or cannot yet, bring myself to assign my Freshmen or Remedial English students *Walden* or "Civil Disobedience." Rather, over the last two semesters, I have stolen and applied a few of Thoreau's suggestions for journal-keeping.

For example, I suggested that my stu-

dents draw what they wrote about:

It is remarkable how suggestive the slightest drawing as a memento of things seen. For a few years past I have been accustomed to make a rude sketch in my journal of plants, ice, and various natural phenomena, and though the fullest accompanying description may fail to recall my experience these rude outline drawings do not fail to carry me back to that time and scene. It is as if I saw the same thing again, and I may again attempt to describe it in words if I choose.

I have also asked them to sit in one place for an hour and then, in class, try to write what they forgot to write, and then go back and do another hour at that same spot another day:

I would fain make two reports in my Journal, first the incidents and observations of today; and by tomorrow I review the same and record what was omitted before, which will often be the most significant and poetic part. I do not know at first what it is that charms me. The men and things of to-day are wont to lie fairer and truer in to-morrow's memory.

And perhaps most importantly, though less practically, I have encouraged them to recognize the adventures on which they are now embarked:

As travelers go round the world and report natural objects and phenomena, so faithfully let another stay at home and report the phenomena of his own life,—catalogue stars, those thoughts whose orbits are as rarely calculated as comets.

*We are grateful to the following companies
for supporting the Thoreau Society's publications with their advertisements:*

**Charlesbridge Publishing
University of Iowa Press**

*Those interested in supporting the Thoreau Society's publications program should contact
Tamara Beams at Tamara.Beams@walden.org*

Society Eyes Acquisition of Thoreau Birthplace

Greg Turner

[Editor's Note: The following article appeared in the Concord Journal on 3 January 2002, pp. 1, 12, and is reprinted here with the permission of the author and the Concord Journal.]

A local nonprofit organization dedicated to the life and work of Henry David Thoreau is considering taking over the town-owned house in which the transcendentalist author was born.

The Thoreau Society, based at 44 Baker Farm in Lincoln but with deep roots in Concord, will decide in a board of directors meeting later this month whether it should move forward with plans to acquire the property at 341 Virginia Road. In July, at the Thoreau Society's annual gathering and celebration of its 60th anniversary, board president Ronald Bosco announced the creation of a special committee to study the proposal.

"We charged the committee to see if there is any interest in pursuing this," he said.

Bosco said he met with Concord officials, including Town Manager Chris Whelan and Selectman Sally Schnitzer, last month and had an "open-ended conversation."

The details of the plan are still sketchy, including whether the Thoreau Society would buy the house from the town or take it over under a long-term lease.

The Board of Selectmen is expected to decide at a special meeting tomorrow whether to put a "placeholder" article for the proposal on the annual Town Meeting warrant.

The warrant closes Jan. 7, three weeks before the Thoreau Society board votes on the proposal. If the organization wants to move forward, the specific language of the article can be written later.

"We have this one opportunity to get this on the warrant this year," Schnitzer said.

Town Meeting voters would authorize a sale or lease, but the town would still have to offer the acquisition to any organization through a request for proposals, a requirement under state law.

The Thoreau Society and other organizations could then make bids; town officials would review them and approve them.

The Thoreau Society's interest has created new momentum for the so-called Thoreau birthplace property and its restoration, since lease negotiations with other organizations dissolved last spring.

Despite receiving roof, window, and other exterior repairs, the two-story house built around 1760 still needs major work inside and a new foundation and septic system, according to town officials.

A nonprofit organization, the Thoreau Farm Trust, formed in 1998 to raise funds for restorations and a modest educational program on the site. The plan was halted in June, along with a proposal by the Education Collaborative (EDCO) for a barn-like educational center next to the house.

"We've always said it's not going to be town tax dollars that would be used to restore this house," said Schnitzer, who was involved in the lease negotiations that eventually went nowhere. "We're just waiting for an attractive proposal to come along."

Bosco estimates the Thoreau Society would need \$1 million to restore the house and another \$500,000 to establish an endowment for future maintenance. That cost may be too steep for the 60-year-old organization.

"Those numbers I find quite staggering ... I feel personally," Bosco said. "I'm not sure of where people are going to go within the Thoreau Society with that concept.... That is a rather substantial sum."

The house is sometimes called the "Thoreau birth house," because he was born in the house in 1817 when it was located further west down Virginia Road. The house was moved in 1878 and another home later took its place at the original site.

Bosco said the Thoreau Society has no plans to relocate its offices to the house from its current quarters at the Thoreau Institute in Lincoln, which is also home to the Walden Woods

Project.

"As far as I'm concerned, our headquarters are at the Thoreau Institute, where we have an active collaborative relationship with the Walden Woods Project, and we have no intention of moving them," he said. "That's where we're going to remain as long as I'm president."

Bosco, who lives in Concord, also said the organization does not want to turn the Virginia Road farm into a tourist attraction like the Emerson home or Orchard House museum.

"We would like to see some educational activities take place there, but not on a scale talked about by other organizations that were previously interested in the property," Bosco said, referring to EDCO's ill-fated plans for a bustling educational center. "We are not interested in making it a shrine, per se."

Bosco said the property's importance—besides being the house in which Thoreau was born—is as a farm, and that it has never been a mecca for visitors, either in Thoreau's time or today.

Gaining Ground, a local non-profit organization that raises organic crops for distribution to area soup kitchens, has been farming the property since the spring of 1998. The group recently signed a new, five-year lease with the town, Schnitzer said.

Online Membership Directory

At the request of members getting in touch with other members, you are now able to access the membership directory online at www.walden.org. If you wish to have your name and information removed from the online directory, please send an email to ThoreauSociety@walden.org or call the Society office at (781) 259-4750.

The property, known recently as the Breen Farm because of the last family to own it, was purchased by the town in 1997 for \$960,000. A combination of tax dollars (\$160,000) and private contributions covered the sale.

The Historical Commission is applying to have the house placed on the National Register of Historic Places, a designation that could help fuel a fund-raising campaign for a restoration project.

According to Schnitzer, the town would sell or lease only the house and the land immediately around it. The rest of the 25-acre parcel would remain under control of the town's Natural Resources Commission, including the nine acres farmed by Gaining Ground.

One criticism of EDCO's plans for an educational center came from residents who live on Virginia Road. They raised concerns about increased vehicular traffic on the winding, country road, among other issues.

The Thoreau Society intends to include the neighborhood in the planning process, if the board decides to proceed and the town puts something before voters at Town Meeting.

"The Thoreau Society has not discussed anything with the neighbors, but that's because we don't have a proposal," Bosco said. "If we were to go ahead and acquire the property, we would include neighbors in an advisory group."

Book Review: Thoreau's Collected Essays and Poems

Randall Conrad

Henry D. Thoreau. *Collected Essays and Poems*. Ed. Elizabeth Hall Witherell. New York: Library of America: 2001. ISBN 1-883011-95-7. 703 pp., hardcover, \$35.00.

The Library of America—that narrow red-white-blue ribbon on the jacket seems timely this year, rather than timeless—offers authoritative, durable editions of American classics with minimal editorial commentary. The series brought out a volume of Thoreau's major prose works in 1985, prepared by the able hand of Robert F. Sayre, and now we have *Thoreau's Collected Essays and Poems* in a single volume assembled by Elizabeth Witherell, past president of the Thoreau Society and chief editor of the Princeton Edition.

It is an insightful experience to be able to read through Thoreau's twenty-seven essays in chronological order rather than segregated into the traditional categories: social reform, travel, natural history, and so on. Reading "Slavery in Massachusetts" immediately following the mystic idealism of "Love" and "Chastity & Sensuality" discloses the profound kinship between Thoreau's purist standards in regard to body and spirit, and the moral absolutism that made an uncompromising abolitionist of the man who never joined an antislavery organization.

Chronologically, Thoreau's three trib-

utes to that other pure abolitionist, John Brown, are flanked in this edition by his finest late writings on nature and science, "Autumnal Tints" on the near side and "The Succession of Forest Trees," "Wild Apples," and "Huckleberries" (his final essays) on the other. It is plain that Thoreau's high-minded and controversial social vision was rooted in the same rich seedbed as the late nature writings, those visionary admixtures of science and sensuality.

As to Thoreau's poetry, Witherell, a lifelong expert on the subject, establishes a canon of 203 works ranging from the young classicist's careful conceits to eccentric-looking couplets extracted from journal entries as late as 1860. Whether Thoreau's poetic output gains as much as his prose from raw chronological order rather than editorial arrangement is debatable. It is hard to make much of the seven-word "All things decay / & so must our sleigh" without the context of Thoreau's haunting meditation on March that is its matrix (journal entry of 25 March 1860). On the other hand, when "Sic Vita" is shorn of its customary anecdotal context (flung through Lucy Brown's window with a bunch of violets), we read it more closely for its own sake, feeling empathy with the rootless blossoms as they droop and wither, then detachment as we ponder Thoreau's cyclical vision: death makes room for new life.

President's Column

Ronald A. Bosco

The other day I received a call from an old friend who had moved to southern California some years ago. While talking to me on a cell phone from his patio overlooking the Pacific, he commented that he did not miss our Northeastern winters. When I remarked that this year we were actually enjoying an unusually mild winter, he chuckled and said that when we were finished talking, he was going to take a dip in his pool, and while there he would certainly think about the meaning of the expression "mild winter."

It's true that December and January tend to be months of deep hibernation for many of us in the Northeast; however, this month and last have hardly been months of hibernation for the Thoreau Society. In this

column I would like to share with you some of the transitions and initiatives now occurring within the Society, and I will end by sharing with you a passage from Thoreau's journal for 1856 which has always warmed me—even during unusually harsh winters!

Transitions

The most significant transition within the Society occurred a few weeks ago when our Executive Director, Thomas S. Harris, resigned in order to pursue new professional opportunities. In accepting Tom's resignation, I acknowledged the positive force he had become within the Society. Through his work as Executive Director, Tom enhanced the Society's reputation in the Concord and Lincoln communities and

throughout the United States, introduced the Society and its mission to the officers and members of other non-profit organizations operating in the greater Boston area, and generously extended himself to all of our members. In his service to the Board of Directors, Tom helped to orchestrate the professionalization of the Society and certain of its activities such as the Annual Gathering and the publications program—both of which mean so much to our members—and he assisted me and my predecessors in developing the Society's collaborative relations with the Walden Woods Project and, more recently, with the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Management.

I am confident that all of you join the Board of Directors and me in expressing our gratitude to Tom for his work on behalf of the Society and in extending our very best wishes to him as he moves on to new professional challenges in his career.

At present, the Board of Directors is reviewing a number of organizational models before implementing any changes in the administration of the Society; I will report the result of those deliberations to you in a forthcoming *Bulletin*. In the meantime, in addition to my administrative oversight of all of the Society's operations, the business of the Society and member services continue uninterrupted through the very capable efforts of our Membership and Program Coordinator Ms. Tamara Beams and our Business Manager Ms. Karen Kashian. The Society's finances are being overseen by the Finance Committee under the leadership of Vice President for Finance Robert Galvin, who is joined on the Committee by Board members John Mack and Joseph Wheeler, and plans for an exciting 2002 Annual Gathering are moving along quite nicely under the direction of Board member David Ganoe, who chairs the Annual Gathering Committee, and Tamara Beams.

A second transition will occur in the Society when this issue of the *Thoreau Society Bulletin* goes to press. After two years as editor of the *Bulletin*, Board member Susie Carlisle will pass the "editorial torch" to Bradley P. Dean. During her term as editor, Susie has diversified the content of the *Bulletin*, and by inaugurating the "Teacher's Column" as an occasional feature in the *Bulletin*, she has introduced the Society and its mission to a whole new audience. On behalf of the Board and the membership of the Society, I wish to thank Susie for her dedication to the *Bulletin*, and I wish also to welcome Bradley P. Dean, an eminent Thoreau scholar, a life member and former Secretary of the Society, and a person wholly committed to the ideals of Henry Thoreau, as our new editor of the *Bulletin*.

Initiatives

Elsewhere in this *Bulletin* you will find information about two very important initiatives, one of which is still in the relatively early study and discussion stage, and the other of which is now in the implementation stage.

The subject under study and discussion is the Society's interest in the future of the

Thoreau Birthplace. In a feature article that recently appeared in the *Concord Journal* and is reprinted in this issue of the *Bulletin*, the history of the Birthplace is set forth along with the possibility of the Society acquiring the property from the Town of Concord. Last summer I appointed a Birthplace Advisory Committee chaired by Society Treasurer Ronald Wesley Hoag; that Committee, which has been studying the costs associated with such an acquisition given the condition of the house, as well as the relation between such an acquisition and the overall mission of the Society, is in the final stages of drafting a report for the consideration and discussion of the Board. I will certainly keep you apprised of developments on this front in forthcoming issues of the *Bulletin*.

The initiative that has now reached the implementation stage is our inauguration this year of a Thoreau Society Fellowships program. The competition for these fellowships is open only to members of the Society, and as the formal announcement of these fellowships which appears in this issue of the *Bulletin* indicates, the fellowships are intended for those who propose to use our Collections in the Henley Library of the Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods in the furtherance of the Society's mission. On an action taken by the Board of Directors last January, these fellowships, which the Board intends to offer annually, are funded from the interest accrued over the past year by the Margaret Emmon Ingalls Bodfish Bequest, the Harriet M. Sweetland Bequest, and the James J. Smith Fund. This year we will award three fellowships, and each will bear the name of one of these benefactors. I cannot imagine a finer way to remember the extraordinary generosity of these three individuals or to celebrate the wonderful diversity of talent represented by the membership of the Thoreau Society.

Finally, I would like to share with you this warming winter meditation, which Thoreau entered into his *Journal* on 5 January 1856:

The thin snow now driving from the north and lodging on my coat consists of those beautiful star crystals, not cottony and chubby spokes ... but thin and partly transparent crystals. They are about a tenth of an inch in diameter, perfect little wheels with six spokes without a

tire, or rather with six perfect little leaflets, fern-like, with a distinct straight and slender midrib, raying from the centre.... How full of the creative genius is the air in which these are generated! I should hardly admire more if real stars fell and lodged on my coat. Nature is full of genius, full of the divinity; so that not a snowflake escapes its fashioning hand. Nothing is cheap and coarse, neither dewdrops nor snowflakes. Soon the storm increases ... and the snow comes finer, more white and powdery. Who knows but this is the original form of all snowflakes, but that when I observe these crystal stars falling around me they are but just generated in the low mist next the earth? I am nearer to the source of the snow, its primal, auroral, and golden hour or infancy, but commonly the flakes reach us travel-worn and agglomerated, comparatively without order or beauty, far down in their fall, like men in their advanced age....

A divinity must have stirred within them before the crystals did thus shoot and set. Wheels of the storm-chariots. The same law that shapes the earth-star shapes the snow-star. As surely as the petals of a flower are fixed, each of these countless snow-stars comes whirling to earth, pronouncing thus, with emphasis, the number six....

What a world we live in! where myriads of these little disks, so beautiful to the most prying eye, are whirled down on every traveller's coat, the observant and the unobservant, and on the restless squirrel's fur, and on the far-stretching fields and forests, the wooded dells, and the mountain-tops. Far, far away from the haunts of man, they roll down some little slope, fall over and come to their bearings, and melt or lose their beauty in the mass, ready anon to swell some little rill with their contribution, and so, at last, the universal ocean from which they came. There they lie, like the wreck of chariot-wheels after a battle in the skies. Meanwhile the meadow mouse shoves them aside in his gallery, the school boy casts them in his snowball, or the woodman's sled

glides smoothly over them, these glorious spangles, the sweeping of heaven's floor. And they all sing, melting as they sing of the mysteries of the number six,—six, six, six. He takes up the water of the sea in his hand, leaving the salt; He disperses it in mist through the skies; He recollects and sprinkles it like grain in six-rayed snowy stars over the earth, there to lie till He dissolves its bonds again.

Life Memberships

The Society is once again offering life memberships, which include all the benefits of an individual membership with the added advantage that your contribution will be managed for the long-term benefit of the Society.

Cost: \$1,000 per person

Your life-membership contribution is tax-deductible.

Please contact the Thoreau Society office for more information. (781) 259-4750.

Thoreau Society Fellowships Available

The Thoreau Society is pleased to announce that three fellowships will be available this year for researchers at the Henley Library of the Thoreau Institute, which houses the Collections of the Thoreau Society. The stipend for each fellowship is \$1000. Fellowships are available only to members of the Thoreau Society. (Thoreau Society employees and members of the Board of Directors, and their family members, as well as employees of the Thoreau Institute and the Walden Woods Project, and their family members, are not eligible for these fellowships.)

Fellowships are available for any study that pursues the goals of the Thoreau Society as expressed in its By-Laws, espe-

cially "stimulating interest in and fostering education about [Thoreau's] life, works, and philosophy and his place in his world and ours." The major portion of the research must be done at the Henley Library of the Thoreau Institute.

Applications must include the following:

1. Project narrative of no more than five double-spaced pages describing the project and its history to date, outlining the work to be done during the fellowship period, discussing the resources of the Henley Library at the Thoreau Institute relevant to the project, and including plans for disseminating the completed project.

2. A brief (no more than five pages) résumé or curriculum vitae.

3. Two letters of recommendation.

Send all materials to:

Ronald A. Bosco

Chair, Fellowships Selection Committee

Thoreau Society

44 Baker Farm

Lincoln, MA 01773-3004 U.S.A.

We regret that we cannot accept electronic applications. For more information about the Thoreau Society and the Thoreau Institute, see our web site, www.walden.org.

The deadline for receipt of all applications and supporting materials is 31 March 2002. The fellowship may be used anytime between 1 July 2002 and 30 June 2003.

Notes and Queries

Sadly, former Thoreau Society President W. Stephen Thomas passed away on Thursday 27 December 2001 in his home in Rochester, New York. He was 92. An obituary will appear in the next *Bulletin*.

Michael West's *Transcendental Wordplay*, reviewed in the Spring 2000 *Bulletin*, received the Phi Beta Kappa's Christian Gauss Award for 2001. West spoke at our July 2000 Annual Gathering.

While Christmas shopping in a Lexington bookstore, Randall Conrad found a little-known Thoreau t-shirt that appears to be scrupulously based on the 1856 Maxham daguerreotype. It is displayed on the cover of cartoonist Bill Amend's 1996 "FoxTrot"

collection, *At Least This Place Sells T-Shirts*.

Jim Dawson sent us the following paragraph from *Anne Morrow Lindberg: Her Life* by Susan Hertog and Nan A. Talese (New York and London: Doubleday, 1999), p. 434:

Some critics compared Anne's book [*Gift from the Sea*] to *Walden*, hailing her as a female counterpart to Henry David Thoreau, but Anne's philosophy challenges his individualism. Thoreau believed that the state derived its power and authority from the individual, who was free to break its laws at will. True to the Morrow ethic, the premise of Anne's

philosophy is the sacredness of the whole—the inviolability of family, community, and state. Anne validates the supremacy of law over individual will on the assumption that it represents the common good. Both Anne Lindbergh and Henry David Thoreau confirm the lessons of nature in a mechanical age and the divinity of self-revelation through meditation. But Anne's solitude, unlike Thoreau's, had a singular purpose—to enrich and consecrate her relationships. Family, community, and the state—these were the institutions that exalted one's humanity. To live for oneself alone was the stuff of "sin."

Additions to the Thoreau Bibliography

Thoreau, enacted by Richard Smith of Concord, Massachusetts, appeared on the cover of the *Boston Globe* "Calendar" section, which contained an article by Carol Band ("Working in the Past," 22-28 November 2001, pp. 10-13) about Thoreau and four other Massachusetts historical figures portrayed by historical interpreters who are photographed and profiled in this Thanksgiving supplement.

In the 2002 edition of *The Mariner's Book of Days*, Peter H. Spectre once again invokes nautical inspirations from Thoreau on a number of pages—for instance, the week of 21-27 January with the header, "The noise of my oars has seared into the depths" and the week of 4-10 March: "We went to see the Ocean, and that is probably the best place of all our coast to go to."

Rick L. Thompson sends an article from the 21 October 2001 edition of the *Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Sunday News* entitled "Thoreauly Therapeutic," focusing on Lancaster County Parks naturalist Jim Keller's move from a more traditional lifestyle to his current tenure as one of fifteen park naturalists. Jim's particular interest is teaching courses on wilderness survival and orienteering, as well as bringing Thoreau to life at the local Environmental Center.

Harold Wilson offers an outdoor adventure-experience program through the Cathedral School of St. Mary and St. Paul in Garden City, New York. The Discovery Program is required of all fourth-formers, and the program's philosophy is based on Thoreau's writings, combining "thought and action in an interdisciplinary approach to learning. During the four-day expedition, students assume the roles of historical figures while simulating a significant episode in history."

An article by Anna Kasabian in the Fall/Winter 2001-2002 issue of *New England Travel and Life* features the Thoreau-Alcott house—better known as "the Yellow House"—and its "literary appeal." Photos of the house's interior and exterior accompany the article, which includes the history of the house and its owners, residents, and visitors.

Botkin, Daniel B. *No Man's Garden: Thoreau and a New Vision for Civilization and Nature*. Island Press, 2001. Review: *Sierra* (November/December 2001): 74. Reviewed by Bob Schildgen.

DeBlois, Diane, and Robert Dalton Harris. "Thoreau Puts Used Paper to Good Use." *Ephemera News* 19, no. 4 (Summer 2001): 20-22. Based on Thoreau's field notes from *The Dispersion of Seeds* housed in the Berg Collection at the New York Public Library.

Foster, David. *Thoreau's Country: Journey through a Transformed Landscape*. Review titled "A New Reading of Thoreau's Journal from an Historical Point of View of Ecological Landscape" (in Japanese). *Rising Generation* (Tokyo: Kenkyusha) 145: 9603-9604.

Gustafsson, Henrik. "Thoreau's *Walden*." *The Explicator* 59, no. 4 (Summer 2001): 180-181. Gustafsson focuses on the mythology of the iron horse referenced in the "Sounds" chapter of *Walden*."

Guthrie, James R. *Above Time: Emerson's and Thoreau's Temporal Revolutions*. Columbia: U of Missouri P, 2002.

Hodder, Alan D. *Thoreau's Ecstatic Witness*. New Haven: Yale UP, 2001. Review: *Library Journal* (1 November 2001): 99. Reviewed by Robert L. Kelly.

Itoh, Shoko. "A Comparative Consideration of the Japanese System of Studies and Education in Environmental Literature with that of the United States" (in Japanese). *The Journal of ASLE-J*, 3: 5-12. How systematically environmental literature is studied and taught in the United States compared with the Japanese system.

Johnson, Rochelle, and Daniel Patterson, ed. *Susan Fenimore Cooper: New Essays on 'Rural Hours' and Other Works*. Athens: U of Georgia P, 2001. References to Thoreau, *Walden*, and acknowledgment of striking similarities in both writers' sense of place in and views of the natural world around them.

Mouri, Ritsuko. "Walden as a Vantage Point." *Circles, Study Circle of Humanities* 3, 2000.

Murakami, Hiromi. "Sounds from Silence"

(in Japanese). *Studies in Henry David Thoreau* 26. Tokyo: Thoreau Society of Japan, 2000. How Thoreau views the sounds of civilization as being equal to the sounds of nature, believing that all sounds emanate from silence.

Saito, Noboru. "Thoreau and a Japanese Poet." *The [Japan] Thoreau Society Bulletin* 233 (Fall 2000): 1-3. Drawing upon literary and poetical works of Hajime Nozawa, this essay illustrates how responses to Thoreau have shaped Nozawa's ideas of identity and how those ideas are expressed in Nozawa's work.

Scheese, Don. *Mountains of Memory: A Fire Lookout's Life in the River of No Return Wilderness*. Ed. Wayne Franklin. Iowa City: U of Iowa P, 2001. "Tell me your landscape and I'll tell you who you are" (Jose Ortega y Gasset) introduces Scheese's meditative reflection of his life in the mountains, culminating with his job as a fire watcher. Many references to Thoreau and the mountains.

Thoreau, Henry David. *Cape Cod*. Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 2000. Review: *Etudes Anglaises* 54, no. 3 (July-September 2001): 366. Reviewed by Pierre-Yves Petillon.

—. *Walden: or, Life in the Woods*. Review: *The State Capital Reporter* (Concord, N.H.) 2, no. 10 (2 September 1854).

—. *Wild Fruits*. Ed. Bradley P. Dean. New York: Norton, 2000. Review: *ANQ: A Quarterly Journal of Short Articles, Notes, and Reviews* 14, no. 2 (Spring 2001): 48-50. Reviewed by Judith P. Saunders.

Wilson, Harold C. *Thoreau Lives*. Philadelphia: Xlibris Corp., 2001. Wilson writes a "vivid and inspiring narrative describing [his] journey into the mountains of central Virginia." He reminds the reader that "the spirit of Thoreau lives in all of us" and that there are "special places on earth that should be preserved forever not only for their natural beauty but for the message of hope they give to mankind."

Worley, Sam McGuire. *Emerson, Thoreau, and the Role of the Cultural Critic*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001. Brief Mention: *American Literature* 73, no. 2 (June 2001): 448-49.

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

23 Saturday 10:00 a.m.
A WALK TO HEYWOOD'S MEADOW
A Thoreau Society Excursion
Walter Brain

Part of the Thoreau Society's excursion program "I have traveled a great deal in Concord," featuring monthly walks in and around Concord, Massachusetts. Space is limited. To reserve a spot and for more information on where to meet, contact the Thoreau Society at (781) 259-4750.

28 Thursday 7:30 p.m.
THE THOREAU COMMUNITY
LECTURE SERIES
Jayne Gordon: *Seeking Edmund Hosmer*

This is the second in the lecture series, "Character References: Considering Thoreauvian Values" cosponsored by the Thoreau Society, Concord Museum, and Thoreau Institute. Throughout the series, presenters and participants will investigate a sampling of the unusual individuals whose character traits caught Thoreau's attention. Free and open to the public. All lectures are held at the Concord Museum. For more information call (978) 369-9763.

MARCH

23 Saturday 10:00 a.m.
THOREAU AND THE WOMEN OF
CONCORD
A Thoreau Society Excursion
Denise Morrissey, Walden Pond State
Reservation

Part of the Thoreau Society's excursion program "I have traveled a great deal in Concord," featuring monthly walks in and around Concord, Massachusetts. Space is limited. To reserve a spot and for more information on where to meet, contact the Thoreau Society at (781) 259-4750.

14 Thursday 7:30 p.m.
THE THOREAU COMMUNITY
LECTURE SERIES
Bruce Ronda: *John Brown: Thoreau's
Literary Remains*

This is the third in the lecture series, "Character References: Considering Thoreauvian Values" cosponsored by the Thoreau Society, Concord Museum, and Thoreau Institute. Throughout the series,

presenters and participants will investigate a sampling of the unusual individuals whose character traits caught Thoreau's attention. Free and open to the public. All lectures are held at the Concord Museum. For more information call (978) 369-9763.

APRIL

11 Thursday 7:30 p.m.
THE THOREAU SOCIETY COMMUNITY
LECTURE SERIES
Robert Finch: *'Thoreau's List of Worthies'*
Part II

This is the fourth in the lecture series, "Character References: Considering Thoreauvian Values" cosponsored by the Thoreau Society, Concord Museum, and Thoreau Institute. Throughout the series, presenters and participants will investigate a sampling of the unusual individuals whose character traits caught Thoreau's attention. Free and open to the public. All lectures are held at the Concord Museum. For more information call (978) 369-9763.

Mark your calendar for
this year's Annual
Gathering
11-14 July 2002

**The Spiritual and Political
Mind of Thoreau**

with keynote speaker
Lewis Hyde,
author of *The Gift and Trickster
Makes This World*

Please let us know of any upcoming events in your area (reading groups, lectures, etc.). We will list your Thoreau-related event in the *Thoreau Society Bulletin* and on our web calendar at www.walden.org

© 2002 The Thoreau Society, Inc.

The Thoreau Society Bulletin, published quarterly by the Thoreau Society, is indexed in *American Humanities Index* and *MLA International Bibliography*.

Editor, Susie Carlisle
Assistant Editor, Tamara Beams

Board of Directors:

Ronald A. Bosco, **President**; Susie Carlisle; Helen R. Deese; Robert J. Galvin, **V. P. of Finance**; David Ganoe; Ronald W. Hoag, **Treasurer**; Robert Hudspeth; John Mack; Wesley T. Mott, **V.P. of Publications**; Joel Myerson, **Secretary**; Sandra Petrulionis; Tom Potter; Richard Schneider; Laura Dassow Walls; Joseph Wheeler

Business ManagerKaren Kashian
Membership & Program Coordinator
.....Tamara Beams
Shop StaffJon Fadiman, Tim Smith

Established in 1941, the Thoreau Society, Inc., is an international nonprofit organization with a mission to honor Henry David Thoreau by stimulating interest in and fostering education about his life, works, and philosophy and his place in his world and ours, by coordinating research on his life and writings, by acting as a repository for Thoreauviana and material relevant to Henry David Thoreau, and by advocating for the preservation of Thoreau Country. Membership in the Society includes subscriptions to its two publications, *The Concord Saunterer* (published each autumn) and *The Thoreau Society Bulletin* (published quarterly). Society members receive a ten-percent discount on all merchandise purchased from the Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond and advance notice about Society programs, including the Annual Gathering. Contact the Thoreau Society administrative offices in Lincoln, Massachusetts, for membership information (address below).

Communications relating to *The Concord Saunterer* should be addressed to Richard Schneider, Department of English and Modern Languages, Wartburg College, 222 Ninth Street NW, Waverly, IA 50677; tel: (319) 352-8435; e-mail: schneider@wartburg.edu.

Inquiries about merchandise (including books and mail-order items) should be directed to Jon Fadiman or Tim Smith, the Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond, 915 Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742-4511, U.S.A.; tel: (978) 287-5477; fax: (978) 287-5620; e-mail: Shop@walden.org.

Shop online at www.walden.org.

All other inquiries and communications should be directed to the Thoreau Society, 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773-3004, U.S.A.; tel: (781) 259-4750; fax: (781) 259-4760; e-mail: ThoreauSociety@walden.org

www.walden.org



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper